

# Ladies' Golf Captain's Blog – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026



May ushers in the first major golfing challenge of the year at the **Spring Meeting**, when the early-season fun gives way to the serious business of medal play. The task of keeping a score together brings its own blend of trepidation and excitement, heightened by the array of trophies on offer.

We were very lucky that the sun decided to shine on both days amid a very wintry spell, but the course presented its usual hazards and challenges. Well done to everyone for playing and many congratulations to the prize winners on some fantastic scoring.

There was a good turnout of 29 for the Weekend Spring Meeting, where Issy Simpson's beautiful tempo made the game look almost effortless as she returned a flawless level-par gross 72. Issy continues to be an outstanding role model for another rising young star, 14-year-old Emily Butler, who produced a superb net 73 – a real breakthrough performance in her first Spring Meeting, earning her a well-deserved second place.

The holder, Alice Pharo, delivered a solid gross 80, net 74 to finish third, but the day belonged to Henrietta O'Shea, whose brilliant net 69 saw her lift the beautiful claret jug and claim the weekend title.



In the Tuesday medal, I found the clubbing very testing in the squally, unpredictable winds. With pin positions tucked mischievously behind bunkers on firm, fast greens, Roehampton Club revealed itself to be a real test of golf.

However, some made it all look remarkably easy with a run of fantastic scoring. Huge congratulations to Andreina Townsend, who produced another brilliant net 69 to win the lowest net score of the meeting for the second successive year, despite her handicap continuing to plummet. She only just edged out Sally Gesua on the back nine, with Sally in sparkling form throughout.

I was delighted to see Clodagh Taylor bravely tackle her first medal and finish an impressive third overall with a net 70, on a countback from the gritty Scottish competitor Linda Hamilton, who is always a contender.

And despite my best efforts to put my name on the **Greenwood Trophy** again for best gross in the Tuesday medal, I was genuinely thrilled to see Trish Boyington claim that honour with a fantastic 82 on a tricky day – a superb achievement and very well deserved.

It was particularly special that Trish has so many memories of playing with Jennifer Greenwood and, in fact, was the first winner of this beautiful trophy, which Jennifer presented in 2004 to give greater recognition to scratch golf in the ladies' section.



### **Div 1 Nett**

- 1st Andreina Townsend 69
- 2nd Trish Boyington 71
- 3rd Fiona Pollard 72

### **Div 2 Nett**

- 1st Sally Gesua 69
- 2nd Clodagh Taylor 70 (Countback)
- 3rd Linda Hamilton 70

### **Gross**

- 1st Trish Boyington 82
- 2nd Katy Preston 86 (countback)
- 3rd Jo Thesiger 86



Well done to Tricia Morgan and Lucinda Cormack for winning the foursomes with a fantastic 36 points on a windy day, pipping Cathy and me by one point!

### **Spring Meeting Foursomes results**

- 1st Lucinda Cormack and Patricia Morgan 36 points
- 2nd Cathy Staveley and Joanna Thesiger 35 points
- 3rd Pippa Riddle and Therese Swanson 34 points (countback)
- 4th Diana Salmon and Anna Tingle 34 points

### **Issy reaches second successive final of the Surrey Championship**

One of the real highlights of the last month was caddying for Issy Simpson in the semi-final and final of the Surrey Championships at St George's Hill. Despite not having played the course before, Issy used the qualifying rounds to settle in and then swept through the matchplay, beating Surrey players Amelia Matthews and Kim Monroe before holing a 50-foot bunker shot and a stunning six-iron for two on the 16th to despatch former champion Becky Gee.



In the final she faced the determined Alice Webb Wilson, who produced some of her finest golf to match Issy shot for shot. One up on the 17th tee, Issy's lack of experience on the closing holes – having won all her previous matches by the 16th – proved costly, and Alice forced extra holes before winning on the 19th.

It was a cruel twist for Issy, but an incredible match. She represented Roehampton Club superbly and dazzled spectators – including England legend, Jill Thornhill, who won her first Surrey title at St George's Hill in 1962 and was full of praise for Issy's beautiful swing, tempo, and unmistakable star quality.

### **Ladies Annual Stableford – 14th April**

Many congratulations to Lucinda Cormack on a fantastic 37 points to secure the 2026 Annual Stableford. Only ladies who had won a Stableford in 2025 were eligible to win the Salver and that honour went to a delighted Caroline Nettel only one shot behind on 36 points.

- 1st Lucinda Cormack 37 points
- 2nd Hanneke Smits 36 points (countback)
- 3rd Caroline Nettel 36 points

## The Pros Day – Friday 17th April

As usual, Ricky pulled out all the bells and whistles for the annual Pros Day, with a packed start-sheet full of eager punters chasing nearest-the-pin glory on every par three. Players also enjoyed the benefit of a pro drive on the 4th and 18th, courtesy of Alistair and Sam.

I have to say, Sam absolutely delivered for our group – Livi Mayell, Pippa Riddle and Amanda Campbell Lambert – launching a spectacular drive that found the green and gave us a genuine chance at an eagle, or at the very least a comfortable birdie.

Will and Wes challenged the field to nearest the pin on the par 3, 7th and 13th holes with a few lucky winners receiving a sleeve of balls for their efforts.

Many congratulations to Richard Lurcott and Justin Thesiger who walked off in a new pair of Ecco golf shoes in first place, narrowly beating Trish Boyington and Annette Timms, with the competitive married partnership of Sally and Danny Gesua taking the bronze.



The **Jollyheim Cup** delivered its usual dose of cheerful rivalry, despite the freezing conditions, as England took on The Rest of the World, with the full course proudly sporting national colours. A huge thank you to the captains – Jane Peel (flying the Welsh flag for The Rest of the World) and Trish Boyington (England) – who put in an enormous amount of work to ensure the matches were as competitive and enjoyable as ever.

England had sneaked the trophy in 2025 with a tight 8.5–7.5 victory, but from the early matches this year it looked as though the St George's flag might be lowered. The Rest of the World came out fighting, full of early optimism, but as the final groups were on the home stretch, the red-and-white momentum gathered pace and the tide slowly turned. In the end, it all came down to the final putt and what a finish it produced – a remarkable 10–10 draw that saw England retain the Trophy!



## Ladies vs Men – Monday 4th May

The Ladies vs Men was fiercely contested as always. The women, holders of the coveted trophy for the past three years, were determined to extend their winning run. The question was whether the men could finally stand in their way.

Clearly the men had been in training; Richard Spalding went round the course in 68, though he and David Bouch only just managed to sneak a victory against Vanessa Morphet and Marina Syron. There was then a long wait in the bar as the match hung in the balance – 9–7 to the ladies with the final two matches still to come in.

Both games went right down to the last hole at the furthest point from the Clubhouse, finishing on the 12th and 13th holes due to the shotgun start. As it turned out, the pairings of Val Patten and Angie Atkins, and Cilla Harries and Heather Lightbody, secured the last two vital points to seal a more convincing 11–7 victory. A big thank you to the men for being so gracious in defeat and for such an enjoyable match. Many Congratulations to the fantastic ladies' team!



## Coronation Foursomes – Tuesday 5th May

The weather turned out to be calm and sunny for this annual foursomes' event, resulting in some very good scores for a format that is not always easy. I had the pleasure of playing with Clodagh Taylor, and we were delighted with our 38 points, thinking we might be in with a chance. However, it wasn't long before we were toppled off the top of the leaderboard by my vice-captain Cathy Staveley and Jane Peel, who beat us on the back nine.

In the end, it was Stephanie Wood and Joanna Bright who stole the show with a fantastic 39 points!!

## Captain and Pro with Sol

Sol and I had nail-biting game against Siobain Rolston and Angie Atkins – two of his star pupils. He was absolutely delighted with their performance, even if it meant us having to endure a steady stream of net birdies coming our way.

In the end, it all came down to the final putt on the final green, and despite our best efforts, the challengers held their nerve and prevailed. Well done Siobain and Angie – it was a very enjoyable game!



## Team Golf

I am delighted to report that all our teams across the handicap spectrum are doing well.

The Wallis team, having eased through the preliminary round against Sunningdale Heath, now face Hankley common.

The Centenary Bowl – they received a bye in the first round having cruised through the preliminary round Fullwell against. They face West Surrey in the next round.

The Hicks comfortably beat Tyrrells Wood in the first round and now also face Hankley Common. Roehampton Club are through to the second round of the Surrey Scratch Foursomes. Nicki Fillingham and Issy Simpson had a resounding victory over Walton Heath at home 6/5!

Cathy Staveley and Andreina Townsend are going very well in the Daily Mail Foursomes reaching the 4th round by beating Richmond (away) 3/2. They now face Wyke Green.

As we all know, golf can be a cruel game at times! Huge commiserations to the Pearson Team, who just missed out in the closest of quarterfinals against West Byfleet. But what an incredible run they have had.

A very big thank you to Kathleen and Kasandra for leading a brilliant campaign over the past eight months, and to all the amazing players. The commitment and team spirit have been outstanding.

### Notes

If you have not already done so, please do join the Ladies' section WhatsApp community for the latest updates on Ladies Golf at Roehampton Club. Scan the QR code on your mobile phone to join.



Tickets are still available for a performance in the garden by [The Baked Bean Theatre Company](#). If you want to attend, please contact Reception.



I explained at the Spring Meeting Prize-giving that we have sourced some beautiful pewter quachs as special mementos for medal winners during the 125. Many people wondered what a quach was, so here we go:

A traditional Scottish shallow two-handled drinking cup, often called the 'cup of friendship'. Silver or pewter quachs have long been awarded in many historic Scottish golf clubs for annual club competitions and championships.



Wishing you all a wonderful time over the next couple of weeks celebrating Roehampton Club's incredible 125 year milestone in the festival of golf.

Get ready for a swinging summer of non-stop golfing fun!

**Jo Thesiger, Ladies' Golf Captain**